



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Testimony Regarding, Raised Senate Bill No. 891, *An Act Modernizing Connecticut Fertilizer Law*,  
Before the Environment Committee, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, members of the Commerce Committee, my name is F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner of Agriculture. **This bill is an initiative of the Department of Agriculture and we urge your support.** We are currently working with the Attorney General's office on a few clarifying changes and have will to address an issue brought to our attention by the Department of Public Safety. So should the bill get to a vote, we will be asking for substitute language.

In 1881, CT was the first in the nation to state to enact a law regulating fertilizer. Since that time, all 50 states have enacted law regulating fertilizer and all 50 states use the *Recommended Uniform State Fertilizer Bill of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials* as amended from time to time.

This bill repeals the existing Chapter 427a known as "Connecticut Fertilizer Law" and replaces it with an updated new fertilizer law. The existing Connecticut Fertilizer Law is based upon the *Recommended Uniform State Fertilizer Bill of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO)*, version of 1965. We propose to update the Connecticut law to the latest version of the **Recommended State Fertilizer Bill of 2008**. There have been many ingredient and definition changes and technological advancements relative to fertilizer during the period of 1965 to present. Updating our law will make it more relevant to modern practices and help to ensure that Connecticut does not impede interstate trade and that Connecticut's consumers and producers are equally protected under the law. We also propose to change the fertilizer product registration from a sliding scale to a fixed fee to simplify and streamline the process. This will benefit both the registrants and our office licensing staff. This proposed change will add an estimated \$16,000 annually to state revenues.

We have surveyed the New England states and find the following:

New England and New York State Survey on AAPFCO (Fertilizer) Model Bill

<u>State</u>	<u>Current law crafted under Model</u>	<u>Last year updated</u>
CT	yes	1993
ME	yes	2008 (In progress)
NH	yes	2002
RI	yes	1992
VT	yes	2000
MA	yes	2000

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact: Melanie Attwater-Young, Legislative Liaison, at 860-713-2509.

165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106  
Phone: 860-713-2503 Fax: 860-713-2516  
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